

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were reviewed in the first office action. Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-4, 18-23, and 27-31, and the indication that claims 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and the indication that claims 7-17 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claims 5-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Casey, U.S. Patent No. 1,851,662 ("Casey '662"). Claim 24 stands rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Casey, U.S. Patent No. 1,952,118 ("Casey '118").

Claim 5 is Allowable.

Claim 5 recites, in part, a plate including a first side and a second side, the first side being separated from the second side by a plurality of vanes, a band attached to the plate on the first side, and a catch on the plate on the second side.

The rejection under §112 has been addressed. The office action asserts that it is unclear if "a respective first end" is referring to the "first end" recited in line 2 or a different first end. In this response, the "first end" recited in line 2 has been deleted, and thus it is clear that the "respective first end" is referring to the first end of the vane.

The rejection under §102(b) has also been addressed. Casey '662 does not show a band attached to a plate on a first side or a catch on a second side. Casey '662 further does not teach that the band can be disposed across the vanes and on the catch. Casey '118 also fails to disclose these features. Because neither of the cited references teach these features claim 5 is both novel and non-obvious over these references. Claims 6-17 that depend from claim 5 are further allowable.

Claims 24 and 26 are Allowable.

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of originally filed claim 25, with that claim now canceled. Because the office action states that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten to include the elements of the base claim, and claim 24 now includes all these elements, it is submitted that claim 24 is allowable.

It was also noted that Claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all elements of the base claim. By way of this amendment, claim 26 has been so amended. Accordingly, this claim is also allowable.

New Claim 32 is Allowable.

Claim 32 recites, in part, a plate with a pair of slots, a vane including first and second tabs and a tongue, wherein the tongue restricts the vane from rotating about an axis defined by the slots. Neither of the cited references disclose a vane with first and second tabs and a tongue, nor do they disclose that these tabs extend through slots in a plate. The cited references also fail to disclose a tongue that restricts rotation about an axis. Accordingly, claims 32 and 33 are allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, the pending application is in condition for allowance. No fee is believed due at this time. However, if any fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 29618/38939 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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